



In the World of Women

Insight and Outsight



ONLY WOMEN CAN TEACH THE OTHER WOMEN

Women Inspectors Are Retained by Street Cleaning Department to Teach Ignorant Housewives

By ALISSA FRANC.

OMAN will apply to the mere observation of a street the critical eye with which she would note the dust on the top of a piano." Commissioner Fetherston says so, and upon this belief he bases his plan of appointing as an experiment four women inspectors for the Street Cleaning Department.

He had come to the conclusion that, being mere men, there were a great many problems and aspects of the department's work which often puzzled him and his assistants, because of the male inability to get the woman's psychology on the matter.

He felt, too, that such inspectors could be of tremendous service in carrying to the countless women with whom the department came into direct contact in their homes the idea that the Street Cleaning Department is not merely an aggregation of White Wings formed for the sake of picking up stray bits of paper in the street, but a direct, positive agency for the maintenance of the health of the city, and therefore of the family.

A woman's tact and shrewdness seemed to him necessary to tell an irate complainant that perhaps her ashes had not been collected because she did not have the cans ready at the right moment, and to explain to her exactly why the collector would not wait or return a little later, when she might have decided to have them down.

I was eager to learn something of this experiment of the Commissioner, now well under way, so I asked permission to meet Miss Regina B. Keller and Miss Mary A. Grace, and accompany them on their daily rounds. I found them most adequate-looking young women, of exceptionally good carriage and a look of perfect serenity and wellbeing. Evidently the inspecting of streets was a healthy way of spending one's days.

A STREET CLEANING INCIDENT.

The heat was stifling and the back streets of Brooklyn, where the infant plague is still raging, squalid beyond description.

We turned the corner of our meeting place. A group of Italians, a violently expostulating garbage collector in his gray uniform and a patient looking horse and cart came to view.

"Ah," said one of my companions, "now we shall see something."

We certainly did. As we pushed the little group to one side, there appeared an overturned can from which, amid the garbage, there crawled millions—literally millions and not thousands—of live worms.

The gentleman of the gray uniform was in a good, healthy rage—as well he might be—at the idea of depositing this load in his cart.

Quietly one of my companions stepped forward.

"Where is the janitor of this house?" she asked, pointing to her official badge.

"He pretends he does not understand!" sputtered the gray-uniformed collector, as an Italian of the crowd came forward.

However, the janitor this time decided that he would make the attempt. He realized that the calm figure before him meant business.

"Wash down the pavement," she commanded. Buckets of water were meekly brought and the writhing mass sluiced down the drain.

The gray-uniformed one, accompanied by the patient-looking horse and cart, wended his way completely pacified. I rather wondered what happened when an arbitrating peace angel was not on hand on such occasions.

Next step to find the landlord, who, we discovered, lived next door.

"Not my fault, lady," was his piteous wail, "these people are so dirty!"

"Tell them to go if they won't do what you tell them," he was sternly told. "Next time there is a complaint against you we shall take you before the magistrate."

It did not need superhuman intuition to know that the man was lying and had never for an instant bothered over the state of this house and its inhabitants, which he owned and lived close beside, except to see that it brought him his weekly income.

WHAT LITTERS THE STREETS.

Next we passed a greengrocer's shop, the owner of which was merrily throwing green branches into the street, which had just been cleaned for the day. We were told that they had been used the night before for the christening celebration of the son of the house, the proud parent evidently thinking that such an occasion was excuse for any breaking of the law.

This is one of the big difficulties the Street Cleaning Department has to contend with—no sooner is the road spick and span than the inhabitants immediately begin littering it up. Before the appointment of these special inspectors such conditions were allowed to go on without any attempt at remedy, but now a vigorous personal expostulation follows each misdemeanor.

So we progressed from block to block. I marvelled at the unflinching patience and common sense of my two companions, for even during my short journey of investigation these igno-



Why the Street Cleaning Department Dreads the Advent of Passover.

rant people, without even a rudimentary feeling of cleanliness and order, filled me with sheer exasperation.

"But why?" asked my companions. "Once these people are made to understand our reasons for making rules they cooperate to a wonderful degree—but they must be made to understand them. The task is made rather heavy at times because the population of these parts is ever changing. These districts are mere training schools for the ignorant, poverty-stricken immigrant."

HOW THE WOMEN ARE TAUGHT.

House-to-house canvassing is added to the regular street inspection, and evening lectures are delivered regularly at the settlement houses, women's clubs and church societies of all denominations.

These lectures are brief, simple and straight to the point. They are given in English, if the listeners understand English; if not, there are translated into Yiddish or Italian such definite precepts as these:

"Keeping the home clean and in order has always been the province of women; it is our time honored occupation."

"Street Cleaning Commissioner Fetherston says that to-day—as for thousands of years—women have all to say and all to do about keeping the home clean and in order; women are the housekeepers of the world."

"A city, whether large or small, is only a

bigger household, and keeping it clean is a problem in housekeeping."

"So the Commissioner wants the women to put their knowledge and experience to use and help and keep New York City as clean, wholesome and beautiful as she is great."

"Keeping the city clean is a housekeeping problem of such magnitude, however, that it requires special scientific training of the highest order to plan it properly; but your own housekeeping experience has been training enough for you to carry out easily that detail of the general plan which is assigned to you, and each one of you must do her share to insure the success of the plan."

"You will realize more readily the need of your cooperation if you consider how hard it is to keep your own home in order if the children or the grown-ups throw things around or mess up the room without thought or care—and in your family there are perhaps four or five members. New York City's family consists of five million members, so that the problem of keeping its house in order is increased about one million times."

WHERE THEY CAN HELP.

"Our Commissioner wants the women to help. He means all the women living in our city, and he wants us who are on his staff to tell them how and why. But we cannot reach every one who needs to be told. A large number of women whose cooperation is needed never at-

tempted a meeting such as this; they do not belong to clubs or organizations of any kind; they do not read newspapers; do not know the necessity of clean, healthful surroundings."

"These women can best be reached and taught by their neighbors—the women who are progressive, who realize that their own

and their children's welfare, health and happiness depend upon the general welfare of the community in which they live."

"So it is this progressive element whose aid we must obtain; women like you, who prove by their presence here to-night that they are interested in questions which affect the whole community; who are young enough to learn and tactful enough to teach."

"To you, then, we want to explain not the daily task of the department; you are all familiar with that; but a few simple regulations which must be observed by all of us who use the streets or who use the collection service of the Street Cleaning Department."

"You must understand the reasons for these regulations, because you will have to point out the dangers and disadvantages of breaking them to your children and your neighbors."

REASONS FOR KEEPING THE LAW.

"There are three good reasons for each rule. The first is health; the second nuisance and the third cost."

"Health means preserving your health, the health of your children and the health of the men who do the actual labor of street cleaning."

Foreign Women Learn That Their Help Is of Value and That Cleanliness Pays

"The rules of health and cleanliness are everybody's business. Those of you who know more about it must teach those who know less. A careless person endangers everybody's welfare. You may be a very clean woman and a very devoted mother. You see your neighbor throw a watermelon rind out of her window, but you say nothing. In a few minutes the watermelon rind will be covered with those disease-bearing pests, flies, which poison your baby's food when your back is turned, and then you wonder how baby got typhoid or the summer complaint."

"Your work, then, in helping us is to obey the few rules which I explained to you, and to see to it that your janitor, your neighbor, your child, your landlord, obey them. Try to do this in a peaceful, tactful manner, by reason and not by ordering."

"At your weekly meetings you will report to your chairman what you have tried to do during the week, where you succeeded and where you failed to achieve results. If you find persistent offenders, communicate with us. The department has other methods by which such persons can be reached."

After the address complaints against the department are listened to and cheerfully adjusted.

"Complaints," remarked my companions, "mean merely a lack of sufficient explanation between two parties."

Excellent and deep philosophy.

SAVINGS MEAN IMPROVEMENTS.

In asking the cooperation of the women special emphasis is laid on the fact that they can reduce the cost of the upkeep of the department by half if they will. The city could then buy the most modern appliances for the care of the streets, which it is too poor to invest in at present.

Stories of plague-ridden cities of ancient times—wiped out by plagues because their citizens did not heed the laws of cleanliness and health—make a deep impression.

Also, the women are told of the dire results of the mere dropping of a piece of paper in the street; how it flies from block to block through filthy puddles, to, perhaps, be picked up by a little child, who puts it in—germ-laden by this time—on its head for a hat.

My companions told of the pleasure it was to see that the women were learning to take them into their confidence. Only just now are the poor, foreign housewives beginning to understand that there is a remedy against toilets which have not been working properly for months, and for the other disgraceful conditions allowed by the landlords. Timidly they ask how to address complaints to the Health Department, which the inspectors only too gladly help them to do.

Impromptu speeches are resorted to when all else fails. For instance, in one neighborhood the collectors complained bitterly that for months they had tried to induce the women not to break the rule of overfilling the cans. An explanation from a soap box to the crowd that soon gathered had a magical effect.

THE APPEAL THAT COUNTS.

It was interesting to learn the difference between the Jewish East Side and the Italian quarter. The Italians were more volatile, it was told, and only heeded the personal sentimental appeal. The Jew, however, once impressed with an ideal, never forgets it, and does not allow others to forget it either.

Appropos of the Jewish quarter, how many of us know that each Passover the Jews have a wholesale clearance of rubbish and dirt, accumulated in their homes for one whole year? The simplest method of getting rid of this is to throw it out of the windows!

The dread with which the Street Cleaning Department views the advent of Passover can well be imagined!

And so I reached my journey's end, filled with the idea that truly was Commissioner Fetherston a wise prophet regarding the needs of his own personal department.

But perhaps he has proved himself even more than that, in showing that by slow degrees the efficiency we have learned to prefix with "German" can be produced much better and more lastingly by sheer reasoning, courtesy and understanding than by the militant word of command.

In fact, the militant word of command never works in building a permanent foundation for citizenship any more than it does in promoting efficiency.

The larger proportion of the immigrants who come to this country regard it as a land of promise, where the restrictions and oppressions of the old life will be forgotten and where it is possible for them to become free and self-respecting citizens. Among the Jews especially this ideal comes to be only less precious than religion. The swift progress from the pushcart and the tenement to the larger mercantile establishment and the comfortable home prove this every year. The one sure way to weld these people into the body politic of this country is to put them upon the footing of citizens; teach them that they are dependent upon us to do their share. Commissioner Fetherston evidently understands this, and his policy is doing more than any uplift experiment to remould the strangers within our gates into good American citizens.



The Four Women Inspectors of Street Cleaning: Mrs. Elma C. Gray, Miss Elizabeth Y. Monroe, Miss Mary A. Grace, Miss Regina B. Keller.

WHAT TO PACK IN THE PICNIC HAMPER

By VIRGINIA CARTER LEE.

S O MANY picnic luncheons are put up during the summer months that, whether they are to be taken by the "grown ups" for a motor trip or by a lot of growing boys and girls out for a "hike," the provident housekeeper should make a careful study of this subject and see that her pantry is stocked with certain supplies that will enable her to cater both wisely and well.

Putting up tempting luncheons of this character is not at all difficult, and fortunately, with the inexhaustible supply of paper napkins, cups, dishes and moisture-proof cartons, many dainties may now be carried that formerly were thought impossible for an *al fresco* meal. In fact, if one takes advantage of these inexpensive paper containers and wrappings, the carried luncheon can be made much more economical, attractive and nourishing than anything purchased on the way.

One or two paper napkins should be allowed for each person and a large roll of paraffin paper provided for wrapping sandwiches, cookies, cake, etc. Any cold pudding or dessert—custard, rice, cornstarch or preserves—as well as baked beans and salad, is easily and perfectly carried in the cartons already mentioned. These are made with covers that fit securely and they come in all sizes from an eighth of a pint to a quart.

SOME SANDWICH SUGGESTIONS.

Because of its convenience, the sandwich will always form the foundation of the picnic luncheon; but let variety be the rule—in the bread as well as the filling. Use white bread, whole wheat, graham, rye, nut, raisin, gluten and they come in all sizes from an eighth of a pint to a quart.

dinner rolls or freshly-baked baking powder biscuits are particularly delicious with a chicken salad or devilled sardine filling.

In the matter of filling for sandwiches, the housewife should remember that there are other savory and nourishing foods besides meats, and other sweets that may be used in the place of jams and jellies. Cream cheese with nuts and pimientos, sardines with lettuce or watercress, boiled eggs with green peppers, figs and dates ground to a paste, marmalade and nuts and the various fish pastes are all recommended and, in the majority of cases, add a bit of edible green, which always appeals alike to the eye and the palate.

With the aid of the helpful thermos bottles hot soup, cocoa or coffee may be carried ready for serving, or a refreshing iced beverage may be kept cold. Small portions of fried or broiled chicken, dainty slices of veal or beef loaf may be added to the menu if heartier edibles are thought necessary.

The regular automobile baskets or hampers are so attractive that it makes one hungry to look at them. If one goes on many motor trips they are almost a necessity. Most of these now contain a small kettle, so that a cup of tea can be quickly brewed even by the wayside. This is most refreshing after a long, dusty trip. As the cup that cheers should always be freshly made and does not allow of being carried in thermos bottles, a tea outfit of this nature is a great comfort.

FOR COOKING IN THE OPEN.

When hungry boys and girls are off for a day's tramp the idea of cooking something over a real fire always appeals to them. Eggs and bacon, a slice of broiled ham or a corned beef hash mixture, all ready to heat and brown in the frying pan, will give them a good substantial meal which they can easily

prepare. Pancake flour, requiring merely the addition of cold water to mix, is another staple that they can experiment with and, if there are a couple of skillets taken along—these come with removable handles, so that they can be easily packed—a constant supply of flapjacks can be baked and eaten with the addition of good maple syrup.

In packing a luncheon to be eaten in the open, be very sure that there is an abundant supply; for appetites are apt to be sharpened by the fresh, outdoor air, and the caterer will find that the good things brought from home will literally fade away.

Unfortunately, to be able to get ready and "go a-picknicking" is an accomplishment that every housekeeper does not possess. Almost every woman who has kept house knows that there are certain days when the bread, butter, eggs and cake are apt to give out, and it always does seem that at just these inconvenient times the chance of a day's outing presents itself and frequently has to be refused, because the cupboard is bare.

PICNIC SUPPLIES.

This need not be the case if the housewife has the forethought to be prepared for just such an emergency and has on her pantry shelf or in the ice chest the following list of supplies: A package of any of the prepared biscuit flours, a pint jar of mayonnaise (this may be used in the place of butter in many sandwiches), a jar of fish paste, one or two of cheese, a couple of tins of boned chicken and tongue and several boxes (tin) of plain and fancy crackers.

In addition to these emergency supplies, a bottle of olives, several glasses of jelly and a small jar of nut meats will furnish ample material for an appetizing luncheon or supper that may be prepared and packed in a

very short space of time.

Baking powder biscuits, if made small in size, can be mixed and baked inside of fifteen minutes and many varieties of tempting little cakes in about the same amount of time. Or, if still greater haste is demanded, the crackers themselves may be converted into delicious confections in a very few minutes.

WAYS TO DEVIL EGGS.

Second only to sandwiches in their popularity are stuffed or devilled eggs for a picnic luncheon. Be sure that the eggs be first boiled for twenty-five minutes, then placed immediately in cold water. When cold, shell, cut in halves lengthwise, remove the yolks and mash to a paste. Season the paste highly with salt, celery salt, paprika, a bit of mixed mustard and minced cress or parsley with sufficient mayonnaise or boiled dressing to moisten and fill into the egg whites. Press the filling firmly in, heating it up in the centre and wrap each half securely in paraffin paper.

A variety of other ingredients may be added to the yolk paste in the place of those mentioned, minced ham or tongue, finely chopped drained pickled beets, olives, minced cucumber pickle and a chutney sauce being all excellent.

SAVORY GAME SANDWICHES.

In preparing the sandwiches the following recipe is sure to prove very popular with the men of the party, who as a rule are very fond of highly flavored dishes: Remove the contents from a small can of game pate and chop finely. Add an equal quantity of shredded lettuce, two chopped hard boiled eggs, half a dozen chopped stuffed olives, one tablespoonful of chutney sauce, one tablespoonful of Worcestershire sauce and sufficient mayonnaise dressing to form a paste. Spread between buttered slices of whole wheat or graham bread, press the slices together and cut into neat circles.